III.14 BLM LAND DESIGNATIONS, CLASSIFICATIONS, ALLOCATIONS, AND LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

This chapter presents the environmental setting and affected environment for the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) land designations, classifications, allocations, and inventoried lands with wilderness characteristics. These areas consist of designated wilderness areas, wilderness study areas (WSAs), National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Scenic and Historic Trails (NSHT), Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), Desert Wildlife Management Areas (DWMAs), Habitat Management Areas (HMAs), Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs), inventoried lands with wilderness characteristics, and multiple-use classes. Most of these areas have been identified to protect unique characteristics and to contain resources identified as scientifically, educationally, biologically, or recreationally important.

These BLM-managed special management areas meet the direction of specific laws, policies, or proclamations that improve the manageability of the areas and allow the managing agency to preserve, protect, and evaluate significant components of national resource values. Depending on the specific designation, these special management areas are established administratively or by Congress or presidential proclamation. BLM has the authority to identify certain types of special management areas through the Resource Management Plan (RMP) amendment or revision process.

Congressional designations include wilderness, national conservation areas (NCAs), National Wild and Scenic River System, NSHTs, and national parks. National monuments are designated by presidential proclamation or, less commonly, by congressional designation. The Secretary of the Interior, or delegated officer, designates National Recreation Trails (NRTs) through a standardized process, including a recommendation and nomination by the BLM. NRTs provide a variety of compatible outdoor recreation uses. The NRT designation recognizes exemplary trails or local and regional significance and becomes a part of the National Trail System.

The BLM may apply administrative designations in areas requiring special management (not legislative). These include ACECs, streams eligible or suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System, and Back Country Byways. Land uses may be permitted in administratively designated areas to the extent that uses are in harmony with the purpose for which the area was designated. BLM may also identify areas with significant and important resources or features, such as wildlife management areas and recreation management areas. BLM has the authority under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) to inventory features of the land, including those associated with the concept of wilderness or wilderness characteristics. Inventoried lands found to have

wilderness characteristics may be considered in land use planning decisions when BLM determines that those characteristics are reasonably present, of sufficient value and need, and practical to manage.

III.14.1 Regulatory Setting

III.14.1.1 Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976

FLPMA of 1976 (43 United States Code [U.S.C.] 1701 et seq.) established the multiple-use and sustained-yield management framework for public lands (43 U.S.C. 1701[a][7]). "Multiple use" features the following key tenets: (1) managing public lands and using various resource values in a combination that best meets the needs of the American people, (2) providing the most judicious use of the land for some or all of the resources over areas large enough to provide for periodic adjustments in use, and (3) using some land for less than all of the resources (43 U.S.C. 1702[c]).

In addition, multiple use refers to: (1) a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that take into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific and historical values; and (2) harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment with consideration being given to the relative resource values and not necessarily to the combination of uses that provides the greatest economic return or the greatest unit output (43 U.S.C. 1702[c]). "Sustained yield" is defined as the achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high-level annual or regular periodic output of various renewable resources of the public lands consistent with multiple use (43 U.S.C. 1702[h]).

Congress directed that public lands be managed in a manner that protects the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archaeological values, and that where appropriate will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition, that will provide food and habitat for fish, wildlife, and domestic animals, and that will provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use (43 U.S.C. 1701(a)(8)). In addition, Congress directed that public lands be managed in a manner that recognizes the nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from the public lands (43 U.S.C. 1701[12]). The policies of FLPMA become effective upon enactment of specific statutory authority under the act or other provisions of law (43 U.S.C. 1701[b]).

FLPMA directs the Secretary of the Interior to prepare and maintain an inventory of all public lands and their resources and other values (43 U.S.C. 1711). In addition, the Secretary is directed to develop, maintain, and, when appropriate, revise land use plans (43 U.S.C. 1712). In developing and revising the land use plans, the Secretary must use

and observe principles of multiple use and sustained yield; achieve integrated consideration of physical, biological, economic, and other sciences; give priority to designation of ACECs; rely on the inventory of the public lands to the extent it is available; consider past and present uses of the public lands; consider the relative scarcity of values and available alternative means to realize those values; weigh the long-term benefits to the public against the short-term benefits; and provide for compliance with applicable pollution control laws including air, water, noise, or other pollution standards or implementation plans.

In addition, the Secretary is directed (to the extent consistent with the laws governing the administration of the public lands) to coordinate the land use inventory, planning, and management activities of or for such lands with the land use planning and management programs of other federal departments and agencies and of the states and local governments where the lands are located. These include, but are not limited to, the statewide outdoor recreation plans developed under the act of September 3, 1964 (78 Stat. 897), as amended (16 U.S.C. 4601–4 et seq.), and of or for Indian tribes by, among other things, considering the policies of approved state and tribal land resource management programs.

In implementing this directive, the Secretary shall, to the extent practical (1) keep apprised of state, local, and tribal land use plans; (2) assure that consideration is given to those state, local, and tribal plans that are germane in the development of land use plans for public lands; (3) assist in resolving inconsistencies between federal and nonfederal government plans, and (4) provide for meaningful public involvement of state and local government officials, both elected and appointed, in the development of land use programs, land use regulations, and land use decisions for public lands, including early public notice of proposed decisions that may have a significant impact on nonfederal lands. Such officials in each state are authorized to provide advice to the Secretary on the development and revision of land use plans, land use guidelines, land use rules, and land use regulations for the public lands within such state, and with respect to other land use matters as may be referred to them. Land use plans of the Secretary under this section shall be consistent with state and local plans to the maximum extent the Secretary finds consistent with federal law and the purposes of this act (43 U.S.C. 1712).

Title VI of FLPMA defines the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) as a designated management area. Most of the LUPA Decision Area is within the CDCA Plan boundary, which is addressed in Section 601 of FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1781). Key portions of Section 601 follow:

1. The California desert contains historical, scenic, archaeological, environmental, biological, cultural, scientific, educational, recreational, and economic resources that are uniquely located adjacent to an area of large population.

2. The California desert environment is a total ecosystem that is extremely fragile, easily scarred, and slowly healed.
3. The California desert environment and its resources, including certain rare and endangered species of wildlife, plants, fishes, and numerous archaeological and historic sites, are seriously threatened by air pollution, inadequate federal management authority, and pressures from increased use, particularly recreational use, which are certain to intensify because of the rapidly growing population of Southern California.
4. The use of all California desert resources can and should be provided for in a multiple-use and sustained-yield management plan to conserve these resources for future generations, and to provide present and future use and enjoyment, particularly outdoor recreation uses, including the use, where appropriate, of off-road recreational vehicles.
5. To ensure further study of the relationship between people and the California desert environment; to preserve unique and irreplaceable resources, including archaeological values; and to conserve the use of the economic resources of the California desert, the public must be provided more opportunity to participate in such planning and management, Additional management authority must also be provided to the Secretary to facilitate effective implementation of such planning and management.

In summary, the purpose of the CDCA designation is "to provide for the immediate and future protection and administration of the public lands in the California desert within the framework of a program of multiple use and sustained yield, and the maintenance of environmental quality" (43 U.S.C. 1781[b]). The Secretary was directed to prepare and implement a comprehensive, long-range plan for the management, use, development, and protection of the public lands in the CDCA, taking into account the principles of multiple use and sustained yield in providing for resource use and development, including, but not limited to, maintenance of environmental quality, rights-of-way, and mineral development. The plan is known as the CDCA Plan of 1980, as amended.

III.14.1.2 Antiquities Act of 1906

The Antiquities Act of 1906 grants the president the authority to designate national monuments to protect objects of historic or scientific interest. While the president establishes most national monuments, Congress has also occasionally established national monuments protecting natural and historic features. Since 1906 the president and Congress have created more than 100 national monuments. National monuments are managed by BLM, the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Department of Defense.

III.14.1.3 The Wilderness Act of 1964 (PL 88-577)

The Wilderness Act of 1964 created the legal definition of wilderness, established the National Wilderness Preservation System, and provided a formal mechanism for Congress to designate wilderness. The act also directed the Secretary of the Interior to review (within 10 years) every roadless area of 5,000 or more acres and review every roadless island (regardless of size) in national wildlife refuges and national parks. The Secretary then must recommend to the President the suitability of each area or island for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, with final decisions to be made by Congress. The act also directed the Secretary of Agriculture to study and recommend suitable areas in the USFS system. BLM-administered public lands were brought under the direction of the Wilderness Act with passage of FLPMA in 1976. Sections 603 and 201 of FLPMA also directed BLM to conduct inventories and make recommendations to the president for the suitability of areas to be included in the system (43 U.S.C. 1782, 1711).

The act provides criteria for determining suitability and restricts activities in a designated area. The act states that wilderness areas share the following common characteristics: A wilderness area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of human's work substantially unnoticeable. Wilderness areas also have outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation such as hiking or fishing, and must comprise at least 5,000 acres of land or be of sufficient size as to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. Wilderness areas may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

The Wilderness Act also determined the accepted and prohibited uses of designated wilderness areas. The act sets special provisions for an agency's continuing management of existing or grandfathered rights, such as mining and grazing, and other agency mission-related activities. Lands acquired through donation adjacent to designated wilderness may become part of the wilderness area if the Secretary of the Interior gives 60 days advance notice to the president, U.S. Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

III.14.1.4 The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968

Congress passed the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968 (Public Law [PL] 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The act safeguards the special character of these rivers and recognizes their potential for appropriate use and development. It encourages river management that crosses political boundaries and promotes public participation in developing goals for river protection.

Congress or, if certain requirements are met, the Secretary of the Interior, may designate rivers under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act upon petition by the governor of the state where a river segment lies. A federal agency administers each river segment. Designated segments need not include the entire river and may include tributaries. For federally administered rivers, the designated boundaries generally average 0.25 mile on either bank in the lower 48 states to protect river-related values.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act provides three levels of classification:

1. Wild rivers are free of dams, generally inaccessible except by trail, and represent vestiges of primitive America.
2. Scenic rivers are free of dams, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.
3. Recreational rivers are readily accessible by road or railroad, may have some development along their shorelines, and may have been dammed in the past.

Any river or river segment on public lands found eligible for inclusion in National Wild and Scenic River System is to be managed to protect its outstanding remarkable values, free-flowing nature, and tentative classification until such time as a suitability determination is made. This requires management of public lands within 0.25 mile of the subject river or river segment to conform to management standards and guidelines presented in the BLM Manual 6400 for wild and scenic rivers.

III.14.1.5 The National Trails System Act of 1968

Congress enacted the National Trails System Act in 1968 (16 U.S.C. 1241-1251, as amended) to provide for the ever-increasing outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population, and to promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the nation. The act states that trails should be established primarily near urban areas within scenic areas, and along historic travel routes that are often more remotely located.

The act also provides the means for attaining these objectives by instituting a national system of recreation, scenic, and historic trails, and prescribing the methods and standards by which additional components may be added to the system. Through the act, Congress recognized the valuable contributions that volunteers and private, nonprofit trail groups have made to the development and maintenance of the nation's trails. In recognition of these contributions, an additional purpose of the act is to encourage and assist voluntary citizen involvement in the planning, development, maintenance, and management of trails, where appropriate.

III.14.1.5.1 National Scenic Trail

A national scenic trail is defined as a continuous, long-distance, land-based trail at least 100-miles long, whose designation is established by an Act of Congress and is generally administered by either the Secretary of the Interior or Secretary of Agriculture in coordination with the trail-administering agency. A national scenic trail provides maximum compatible outdoor recreation opportunity, as well as the conservation and enjoyment of significant scenic, historic, natural, and cultural resources, qualities, values, and their associated settings. National scenic trails are found in desert, marsh, grassland, mountain, canyon, river, forest, and other areas, as well as other significant landforms. National scenic trails include the tread, or the trail path, and the trail setting included within the National Trail Management Corridor. National scenic trails may contain water sources or structures designed to support and provide for the safety of travelers along the trail.

III.14.1.5.2 National Historic Trail

A congressionally designated national historic trail is an extended, long-distance trail that can be land or water based and is not necessarily managed as continuous, but that follows as closely as possible original trails or routes of travel. Trails may be from any time period, and trails are considered nationally significant if they have had a far-reaching effect on American culture or are significant in the history of Native Americans. The purpose of a national historic trail is the identification and protection of a historic route and its historic remnants and artifacts that offer significant potential for public recreational use or historical interest based on historic interpretation and appreciation. A national historic trail is managed to recognize the nationally significant resources, qualities, values, and associated settings of the areas, including the primary use or uses of the trail associated with any of several broad historic themes such as trade and commerce, exploration, migration and settlement, and military campaigns. High-potential historic sites, high-potential route segments, and auto tour routes are federally identified and protected by the National Trail administering agency through the Trailwide Comprehensive Plan. Properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, which may also be federally protected, may be identified along the national historic trail, including segments of the national historic trail.

III.14.1.5.3 National Recreation Trail

The Secretary of the Interior or Secretary of Agriculture gives this designation to existing trails that contribute to health, conservation, and recreation goals in the United States. NRTs provide a variety of compatible outdoor recreation uses. Most NRTs are hiking trails, but a significant number are multiuse trails or bike paths. A few are water trails.

III.14.1.6 California Desert Protection Act of 1994

The California Desert Protection Act of 1994 (PL 103-433), was passed by Congress on October 8, 1994. This law established the Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve in the California desert. The law also added 69 wilderness areas to the National Wilderness Preservation System in the CDCA. The law designated about 9.2 million acres of public lands in the CDCA.

The California Desert Protection Act recognizes the need to protect targeted desert wildland resources that face increasing threats. This protection is accomplished through the establishment of national parks, national preserves, wilderness areas, and other designations administered by federal agencies, including BLM. These areas are important to protect because of their "unique scenic, historical, archaeological, environmental, ecological, wildlife, cultural, scientific, educational, and recreational values used and enjoyed by millions of Americans for hiking and camping, scientific study and scenic appreciation" (PL 103-433).

III.14.1.7 The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act (Omnibus Act of 2009; PL 111–11),passed by Congress and signed into law on March 30, 2009, established the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) to provide for the coordinated protection of BLM-administered conservation lands. Title II of the act established the NLCS to include BLM-administered national monuments, NCAs, and other similar designations such as outstanding natural areas, WSAs, NSHTs, components of the National Trails System, wild and scenic rivers, components of the National Wild and Scenic River System, and wilderness components of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Section 2002 further defines the NLCS "to conserve, protect and restore nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations." In addition, Section 2002(d) of the law states that "public land within the California Desert Conservation Area administered by the BLM for conservation purposes" will be included in the NLCS.

The public lands in the NLCS are to be managed in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and policy relating to any component of the system, in a manner that protects the values for which the components of the system were designated. The Omnibus Act of 2009 does not enhance, diminish, or modify any law under which the components of the system were established or managed, including the Wilderness Act of 1964, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, and the FLPMA of 1976.

The NLCS brings into a single system some of BLM's premier and iconic landscapes. Inclusion in the NLCS does not create any new legal protections for these lands, but it does

provide BLM managers with overall guidance and direction for management of the public lands within the NLCS. The NLCS lands within the LUPA Decision Area will be referred to as National Conservation Lands.

III.14.1.8 The California Desert Conservation Area Plan of 1980—Multiple-use Classes

The CDCA Plan of 1980 designated all BLM-administered public lands in the CDCA, except for a few small and scattered parcels, geographically into four multiple-use classes. The classifications were based on the sensitivity of resources and type of uses for each geographic area. Each multiple-use class describes a different type and level or degree of use, which is permitted within that geographic area. All land use actions and resource management activities on public lands within a multiple-use class delineation must meet the guidelines for each class. These multiple-use classes are described in detail in the CDCA Plan (BLM 1980, as amended).

The four multiple-use classes in the CDCA Plan are:

1. **Class C (Controlled Use):** These lands are to be managed and preserved in a natural state, and access generally is limited to nonmotorized, nonmechanized means (e.g., by foot or horseback). Motorized access is prohibited.
2. **Class L (Limited Use):** These lands are managed to protect sensitive, natural, scenic, ecological, and cultural resource values. They provide for generally lower intensity and carefully controlled multiple uses that do not significantly diminish resource values.
3. **Class M (Moderate Use):** These lands are managed in a controlled balance between higher intensity use and protection. A wide variety of uses, such as mining, livestock grazing, recreation, and energy and utility development are allowed. Any damage caused by permitted uses must be mitigated.
4. **Class I (Intensive Use):** These lands are managed for concentrated human use. Reasonable protection is provided for sensitive natural values, and mitigation of impacts and rehabilitation of impacted areas will occur when possible.

The Bishop and Caliente RMPs do not have guidelines for multiple-use classes and do not use these classifications.

III.14.1.9 Bureau of Land Management Manual 6100—National Landscape Conservation System

BLM Manual 6100 provides general policy to BLM personnel on managing public lands in the NLCS. The Omnibus Act of 2009 requires that NLCS units be managed "in a manner that

protects the values for which the components of the system were designated." This manual lists the designations identified in the act as components of the NLCS. The BLM has additional manuals addressing policy specific to national monuments, NCAs and similar designations, wilderness, WSAs, wild and scenic rivers, and NSHTs. National program policies that are applicable to all BLM public lands apply to lands in the NLCS to the extent they are consistent with the Omnibus Act of 2009, the designating legislation or proclamation, other applicable law, and BLM NLCS program policy.

III.14.1.10 Bureau of Land Management Manual 6320—Consideration of Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in the Land Use Planning Process

BLM Manual 6320 provides policy and guidance for considering lands with wilderness characteristics in the land use planning process. Managing wilderness resources is part of BLM's multiple-use mission. The BLM will use the land use planning process to determine how to manage lands with wilderness characteristics, as part of BLM's multiple-use mandate. When such lands are present, BLM will examine options for managing these lands and determine the most appropriate land use allocations for them. Considering wilderness characteristics in the land use planning process may result in several outcomes and include, but not be limited to (1) emphasizing other multiple uses as a priority over protecting wilderness characteristics, (2) emphasizing other multiple uses while applying management restrictions (e.g., conditions of use, mitigation measures) to reduce impacts to wilderness characteristics, and (3) protecting wilderness characteristics as a priority over other multiple uses. The BLM will continue to engage cooperating agencies, the public, and other interested parties in the land use planning process as it relates to the management of lands with wilderness characteristics.

Lands identified for protection of their wilderness characteristics in a land use plan are not managed as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System, the NLCS, or recommended as WSAs or for wilderness designation.

III.14.1.11 Bureau of Land Management Manual 6330—Management of Wilderness Study Areas

BLM Manual 6330 provides policy guidance on the non-impairment standard to BLM personnel, for BLM's use when managing WSAs that are part of the BLM's NLCS. This policy specifically applies to (1) WSAs identified by the wilderness review required by Section 603 of FLPMA and currently under review by Congress (including "Instant Study Areas"), sometimes referred to as "603 WSAs;" (2) legislative WSAs (established by Congress); and (3) WSAs identified during the land use planning process under Section 202 of FLPMA, sometimes referred to as "202 WSAs." This policy includes 202 WSAs identified after wilderness study reports were submitted to Congress. This policy does

not apply to areas designated by Congress as wilderness, or to other lands that may have wilderness characteristics.

BLM's objectives for implementing this policy are to:

1. Manage and protect WSAs, consistent with relevant law, to preserve wilderness characteristics so those areas do not become unsuitable for wilderness designation by Congress.
2. Provide policy guidance for prolonged stewardship of WSAs until Congress makes a final determination on the management of WSAs.

III.14.1.12 Bureau of Land Management Manual 6340—Management of Designated Wilderness

BLM Manual 6340 provides guidance to BLM personnel on managing BLM lands that have been designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. These lands are also managed as part of the NLCS. The BLM's objectives for implementing this policy are to:

1. Manage and protect BLM wilderness areas in such a manner as to preserve wilderness characteristics.
2. Manage wilderness for the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historic use while preserving wilderness characteristics.
3. Effectively manage uses permitted under Sections 4(c) and 4(d) of the Wilderness Act, while preserving wilderness characteristics.

III.14.1.13 Bureau of Land Management Manual 6220—National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, and Similar Designations (Public)

BLM Manual 6220 provides guidance to BLM personnel on managing public lands that are components of the BLM's NLCS and have been designated by Congress or the president as national monuments, NCAs, or similar designations (collectively "Monuments and NCAs" or "components"), and other areas that may be established in the future by Congress, pursuant to the Omnibus Act of 2009. Under Section 2002 of this act, the NLCS was established "to conserve, protect, and restore nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations."

National program policies that generally apply to BLM public lands also apply to NLCS components to the extent that they are consistent with the designating proclamation or legislation, other applicable law, and BLM policy.

The BLM's objectives in implementing the policy are to:

A. Comply with designating Acts of Congress and presidential proclamations by conserving, protecting, and restoring the objects and values for which Monuments and NCAs were designated for the benefit of present and future generations.

B. Effectively manage valid existing rights and compatible uses within Monuments and NCAs.

C. Manage discretionary uses within Monuments and NCAs to ensure the protection of the objects and values for which the Monuments and NCAs were designated.

D. Use science, local knowledge, partnerships, and volunteers to effectively manage Monuments and NCAs.

E. Provide appropriate recreational opportunities, education, interpretation, and visitor services to enhance the public's understanding and enjoyment of the Monuments and NCAs.

III.14.1.14 Bureau of Land Management Manual 6280—Management of National Scenic and Historic Trails and Trails Under Study or Recommendation as Suitable for Congressional Designation

BLM Manual 6280 provides BLM managers and program staff professionals with policies for the management of NSHTs. Specifically, this manual identifies requirements for the management of trails undergoing National Trail Feasibility Study; trails recommended as suitable for national trail designation through the National Trail Feasibility Study; inventory, planning, management, and monitoring of designated NSHTs; and data and records management requirements for NSHTs. While a trail is undergoing a National Trail Feasibility Study, or when a trail is recommended as suitable for designation and Congress has not yet acted to designate it, BLM manages the values, characteristics, and settings of the trail in accordance with FLPMA.

BLM Manual 6280 describes the statutory requirements and policy guidance for managing trails under study or recommended as suitable, including the requirements and goals for such trails during the land use planning process. The manual also describes the statutory requirements and policy guidance for the management of designated trails, including those related to inventory, land use planning, management, and monitoring. The manual indicates the trail's stage in the National Trail designation process and, for congressionally designated National Trails, identifies its order in the steps of the land use planning process.

III.14.1.15 Bureau of Land Management Manual 6400—Wild and Scenic Rivers—Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation, Planning, and Management

BLM Manual 6400 provides policy and program direction for the identification, evaluation, and management of eligible and suitable wild and scenic rivers and the management of designated components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This program guidance fulfills obligations contained in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, as amended, and other relevant laws and policies. BLM's NLCS manages eligible and suitable wild and scenic rivers that are inside an NLCS unit. BLM's Natural Resources and Planning assistant director manages eligible and suitable rivers that are outside an NLCS unit.

Manual 6400 policies and program guidance are consistent with the NLCS mission to conserve, protect, and restore nationally significant landscapes. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 currently protects more than 200 rivers in 35 states and Puerto Rico.

The objectives of this guidance are to:

1. Comply with the Wild and Scenic River Act, subject to valid existing rights, by protecting and enhancing the free-flowing condition, water quality, and outstanding remarkable values of each designated wild and scenic river.
2. Comply with the Wild and Scenic River Act and FLPMA, subject to valid existing rights, by identifying, evaluating, and managing potential additions to the national system.
3. Develop and consider management alternatives during the land use planning process and during project- and activity-level analysis that would protect and, where feasible, enhance the free-flowing condition, water quality, and outstanding remarkable values of BLM-identified eligible and suitable rivers.
4. Protect the free-flowing condition, water quality, and outstanding remarkable values of congressionally authorized study rivers in accordance with the Wild and Scenic River Act and FLPMA.

III.14.2 Bureau of Land Management Special Designations, Classifications, Allocations, and Lands With Wilderness Characteristics

The following section provides the setting for BLM Special Designations, Classifications, Allocations, and lands with wilderness characteristics within the LUPA Decision Area.

III.14.2.1 National Conservation Lands

BLM identifies lands that are components of the NLCS as National Conservation Lands. Approximately 3.9 million acres in the CDCA, including wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, NSHTs, and other special areas are components of the National Conservation Lands, as identified by Congress. Additionally, PL 111-11 states that public land in the CDCA that BLM administers for conservation purposes is to be included in the NLCS. These lands, which include DWMAs, ACECs, and HMAs under current land use planning documents, are managed primarily for conservation purposes, but BLM is considering whether to continue to include these lands as conservation lands in the NLCS through this planning effort. BLM will determine (1) which lands should continue to be managed for conservation purposes, and (2) which lands managed for conservation under the Proposed LUPA meet the criteria for inclusion in the NLCS.

III.14.2.1.1 Wilderness

The BLM, USFS, NPS, and USFWS all manage congressionally designated wilderness as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Wilderness in California is managed according to the Wilderness Act of 1964, the California Desert Protection Act of 1994, the Omnibus Act of 2009, regulations for wilderness management (43 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 6300, BLM Manual 6340), and wilderness management plans.

Wilderness is generally managed to preserve the area in its natural state, to keep it undeveloped and untrammeled by human actions, and to provide opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation. Travel in wilderness areas is limited to travel on foot or by horseback. Motorized vehicles, bicycles, and other forms of mechanized equipment are prohibited in these areas to protect the solitude, primitive nature, and biological values of these special places. The Wilderness Act reserved to Congress the right to make future wilderness designations. Each wilderness designation has supporting documentation that explains specific values and prohibitions.

The LUPA Decision Area contains approximately 6 million acres of designated wilderness, including NPS, USFWS, and BLM wilderness areas. There are approximately 3.5 million acres of BLM-managed wilderness in the LUPA Decision Area as shown in Table III.14-1 and Figure III.14-1.

Table III.14-1
Designated Wilderness Acres within the LUPA Decision Area

Wilderness	Acres	% of LUPA Decision Area
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	**813,000**	**3.6%**
Big Maria Mountains Wilderness	48,000	0.2%
Cadiz Dunes Wilderness	21,000	0.1%
Chuckwalla Mountains Wilderness	102,000	0.4%
Indian Pass Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	32,000	0.1%
Little Chuckwalla Mountains Wilderness	29,000	0.1%
Little Picacho Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	34,000	0.2%
Old Woman Mountains Wilderness	64,000	0.3%
Palen/McCoy Wilderness	247,000	1.1%
Palo Verde Mountains Wilderness	32,000	0.1%
Picacho Peak Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	6,000	0.0%
Rice Valley Wilderness	43,000	0.2%
Riverside Mountains Wilderness	25,000	0.1%
Sheephole Valley Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	45,000	0.2%
Stepladder Mountains Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	1,000	0.0%
Turtle Mountains Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	83,000	0.4%
Whipple Mountains Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	1,000	0.0%
Imperial Borrego Valley	**54,000**	**0.2%**
Coyote Mountains Wilderness	10,000	0.0%
Fish Creek Mountains Wilderness	6,000	0.0%
Indian Pass Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	1,000	0.0%
Jacumba Wilderness	4,000	0.0%
Little Picacho Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	4,000	0.0%
North Algodones Dunes Wilderness	26,000	0.1%
Orocopia Mountains Wilderness		0.0%
Picacho Peak Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	3,000	0.0%
Kingston and Funeral Mountains	**640,000**	**2.8%**
Funeral Mountains Wilderness	28,000	0.1%
Hollow Hills Wilderness	14,000	0.1%
Ibex Wilderness	31,000	0.1%
Kingston Range Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	193,000	0.9%
Mesquite Wilderness	48,000	0.2%
Nopah Range Wilderness	111,000	0.5%
North Mesquite Mountains Wilderness	30,000	0.1%
Pahrump Valley Wilderness	77,000	0.3%

Table III.14-1
Designated Wilderness Acres within the LUPA Decision Area

Wilderness	Acres	% of LUPA Decision Area
Resting Spring Range Wilderness	81,000	0.4%
Saddle Peak Hills Wilderness	2,000	0.0%
South Nopah Range Wilderness	18,000	0.1%
Stateline Wilderness	7,000	0.0%
Mojave and Silurian Valley	**172,000**	**0.8%**
Black Mountain Wilderness	15,000	0.1%
Bristol Mountains Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	17,000	0.1%
Golden Valley Wilderness (in 3 ecoregion subareas)	29,000	0.1%
Grass Valley Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	25,000	0.1%
Hollow Hills Wilderness	9,000	0.0%
Kelso Dunes Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	52,000	0.2%
Kingston Range Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	18,000	0.1%
Newberry Mountains Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	4,000	0.0%
Rodman Mountains Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	3,000	0.0%
Owens River Valley	**11,000**	**0.05%**
Coso Range Wilderness	5,000	0.0%
Inyo Mountains Wilderness	1,000	0.0%
Malpais Mesa Wilderness	2,000	0.0%
Sacatar Trail Wilderness	3,000	0.0%
Panamint Death Valley	**37,000**	**0.2%**
Argus Range Wilderness	9,000	0.0%
El Paso Mountains Wilderness	17,000	0.1%
Golden Valley Wilderness (in 3 ecoregion subareas)		0.0%
Manly Peak Wilderness	200	0.0%
Surprise Canyon Wilderness	11,000	0.0%
Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes	**167,000**	**0.7%**
Bighorn Mountain Wilderness	27,000	0.1%
Cleghorn Lakes Wilderness	19,000	0.1%
Newberry Mountains Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	24,000	0.1%
Pinto Mountains Wilderness	25,000	0.1%
Rodman Mountains Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	31,000	0.1%
San Gorgonio Wilderness	41,000	0.2%
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	**415,000**	**1.8%**
Bigelow Cholla Garden Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	13,000	0.1%
Chemehuevi Mountains Wilderness	86,000	0.4%

Table III.14-1
Designated Wilderness Acres within the LUPA Decision Area

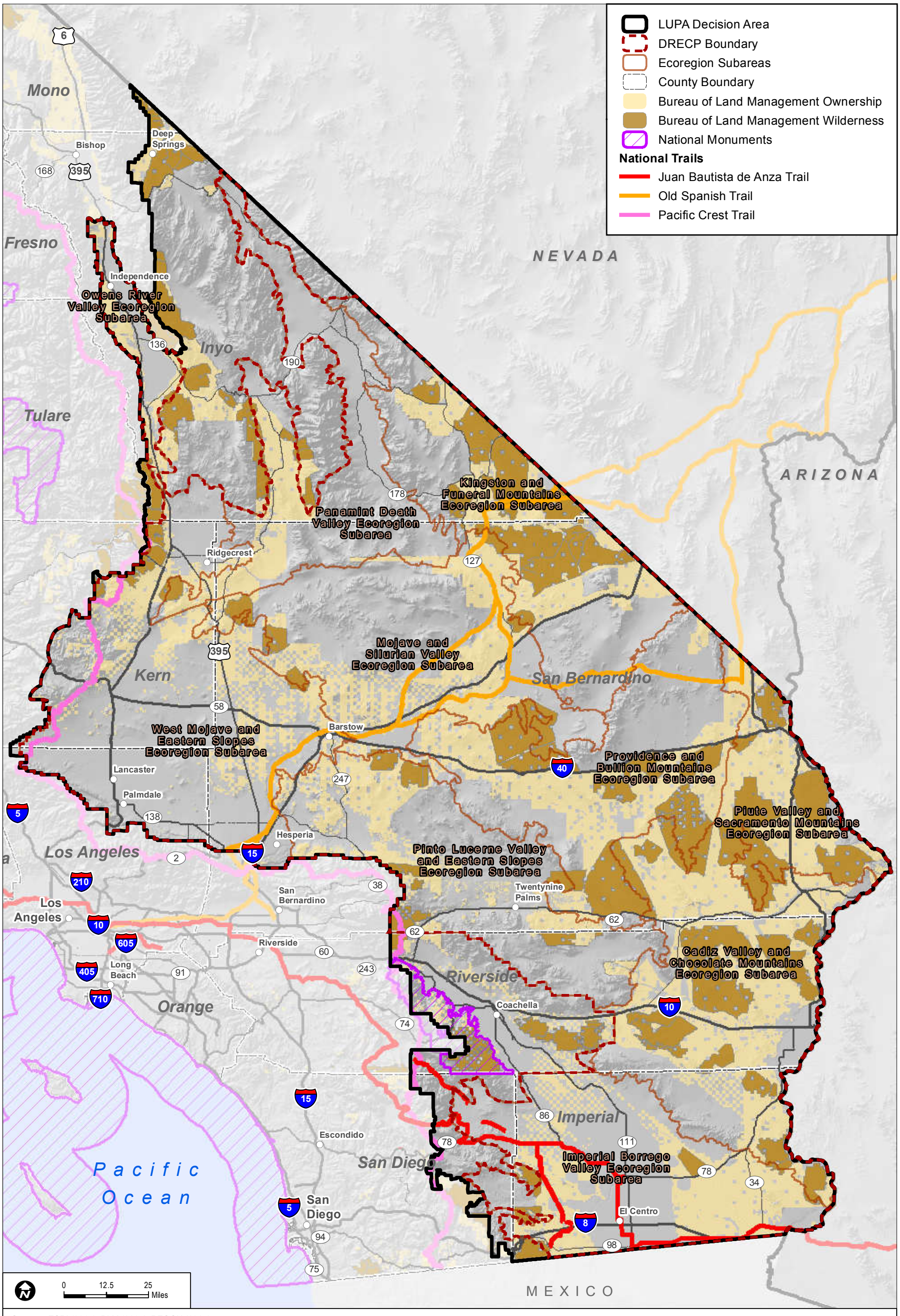
Wilderness	Acres	% of LUPA Decision Area
Dead Mountains Wilderness	54,000	0.2%
Stepladder Mountains Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	83,000	0.4%
Turtle Mountains Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	100,000	0.4%
Whipple Mountains Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	79,000	0.3%
Providence and Bullion Mountains	**582,000**	**2.6%**
Bigelow Cholla Garden Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	2,000	0.0%
Bristol Mountains Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	60,000	0.3%
Cleghorn Lakes Wilderness	21,000	0.1%
Clipper Mountain Wilderness	36,000	0.2%
Kelso Dunes Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	102,000	0.5%
Old Woman Mountains Wilderness	120,000	0.5%
Piute Mountains Wilderness	50,000	0.2%
Sheephole Valley Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	151,000	0.7%
Trilobite Wilderness	40,000	0.2%
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	**90,000**	**0.4%**
Black Mountain Wilderness	6,000	0.0%
Bright Star Wilderness	8,000	0.0%
El Paso Mountains Wilderness	7,000	0.0%
Golden Valley Wilderness (in 3 ecoregion subareas)	7,000	0.0%
Grass Valley Wilderness (in 2 ecoregion subareas)	8,000	0.0%
Kiavah Wilderness	22,000	0.1%
Owens Peak Wilderness	32,000	0.1%
CDCA Area outside the DRECP boundary	**621,000**	**2.76%**
Argus Range Wilderness	56,000	0.2%
Bright Star Wilderness	1,000	0.0%
Carrizo Gorge Wilderness	3,000	0.0%
Coso Range Wilderness	44,000	0.2%
Coyote Mountains Wilderness	9,000	0.0%
Darwin Falls Wilderness	8,000	0.0%
Death Valley Wilderness	1,000	0.0%
Fish Creek Mountains Wilderness	16,000	0.1%
Inyo Mountains Wilderness	80,000	0.4%
Jacumba Wilderness	28,000	0.1%
Malpais Mesa Wilderness	30,000	0.1%
Manly Peak Wilderness	13,000	0.1%

Table III.14-1
Designated Wilderness Acres within the LUPA Decision Area

Wilderness	Acres	% of LUPA Decision Area
Mecca Hills Wilderness	26,000	0.1%
Orocopia Mountains Wilderness	53,000	0.2%
Owens Peak Wilderness	18,000	0.1%
Piper Mountain Wilderness	72,000	0.3%
Sacatar Trail Wilderness	31,000	0.1%
San Gorgonio Wilderness	13,000	0.1%
Santa Rosa Wilderness	63,000	0.3%
Surprise Canyon Wilderness	14,000	0.1%
Sylvania Mountains Wilderness	19,000	0.1%
White Mountains Wilderness	23,000	0.1%
Total	**3,602,000**	**16.0%**

Notes: Acres are based on GIS data and may not match wilderness designation documents.
The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to the nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore, the subtotals may not sum to the total in the table.
Source: BLM 2015

BLM and NPS are the primary wilderness managers within the LUPA Decision Area. BLM administers more than half the designated wilderness areas within the LUPA Decision Area, with approximately 3.6 million acres, followed by approximately 2.9 million acres of NPS-administered wilderness, and over 9,000 acres of USFWS-administered wilderness. NPS wilderness areas found within the LUPA Decision Area include Joshua Tree Wilderness, Death Valley Wilderness, and the Mojave Wilderness. USFWS wilderness areas include the Imperial Refuge Wilderness and Havasu Wilderness. See Chapter III.18, Outdoor Recreation, for additional information on NPS-managed wilderness.



Sources: ESRI (2014); BLM (2015); RECON (2015)

FIGURE III.14-1

Wilderness Areas, National Monuments, and National Historic and Scenic Trails Managed by BLM within the LUPA Decision Area

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III.14.2.1.2 Wild and Scenic Rivers

Congressionally Designated River Segments

The Amargosa River is one of two congressionally designated wild and scenic rivers within the LUPA Decision Area (Figure III.14-2). Different segments of the Amargosa River—from south of Shoshone to an area east of the Death Valley Wilderness Area—have been designated as either wild, scenic, or recreational. Within the LUPA Decision Area, 22.7 miles of the Amargosa River are on BLM-administered lands (specifically 8.46 miles designated as scenic, 8.17 designated as wild, and 6.07 designated as recreational). An interim river corridor boundary extending, on average, one-quarter mile from both sides of the high-water mark has been identified for protective management until a formal corridor is finalized through the Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP) (currently under development). For the Amargosa River, this corridor covers approximately 6,100 acres of BLM-administered lands, 300 acres of State of California lands, and 900 acres of unclassified lands, for a total of 7,279 acres.

BLM will protect and enhance the Outstanding Remarkable Values, water quality, and free-flowing condition of the two Wild and Scenic Rivers and maintain each river segments classification as required by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Eligible Wild and Scenic River Segments

The BLM is required to determine if river segments are eligible for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and to provide for protective management of these segments until a suitability determination can be completed. Considerations for National Wild and Scenic Rivers System eligibility are based on the free-flowing nature of the segment, water quality, and the presence of outstandingly remarkable values as defined by the act.

Eligibility determinations and tentative classifications have been made for the stream segments within the LUPA Decision Area through existing planning efforts as follows.

Mojave River: The West Mojave Plan Amendment (2006) includes an eligibility determination for the Mojave River, and found that a 2.9-mile segment near Afton Canyon meets the eligibility requirements and therefore is eligible for potential inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The eligible segment on public lands contains outstandingly remarkable scenic values (i.e., Class “A” scenic quality), per BLM Manual guidelines. Public lands in this segment have been previously designated as an ACEC in part because of spectacular scenery. Regionally rare plant communities such as cottonwood-willow riparian forest, willow riparian scrub, mesquite bosque, as well as alkaline meadow and emergent plant communities can also be found along this portion of the river. These plant communities support wildlife including a high percentage of neotropical migrant

birds and local or regional disjuncts. The federally listed threatened Mojave desert tortoise is found near this segment, as well as a range of other sensitive and/or special concern species. The presence of flowing water in this segment has served to attract humans for thousands of years. The high relief, stark topography and lush riparian vegetation provided by this segment continue to offer many opportunities for nonintrusive recreation.

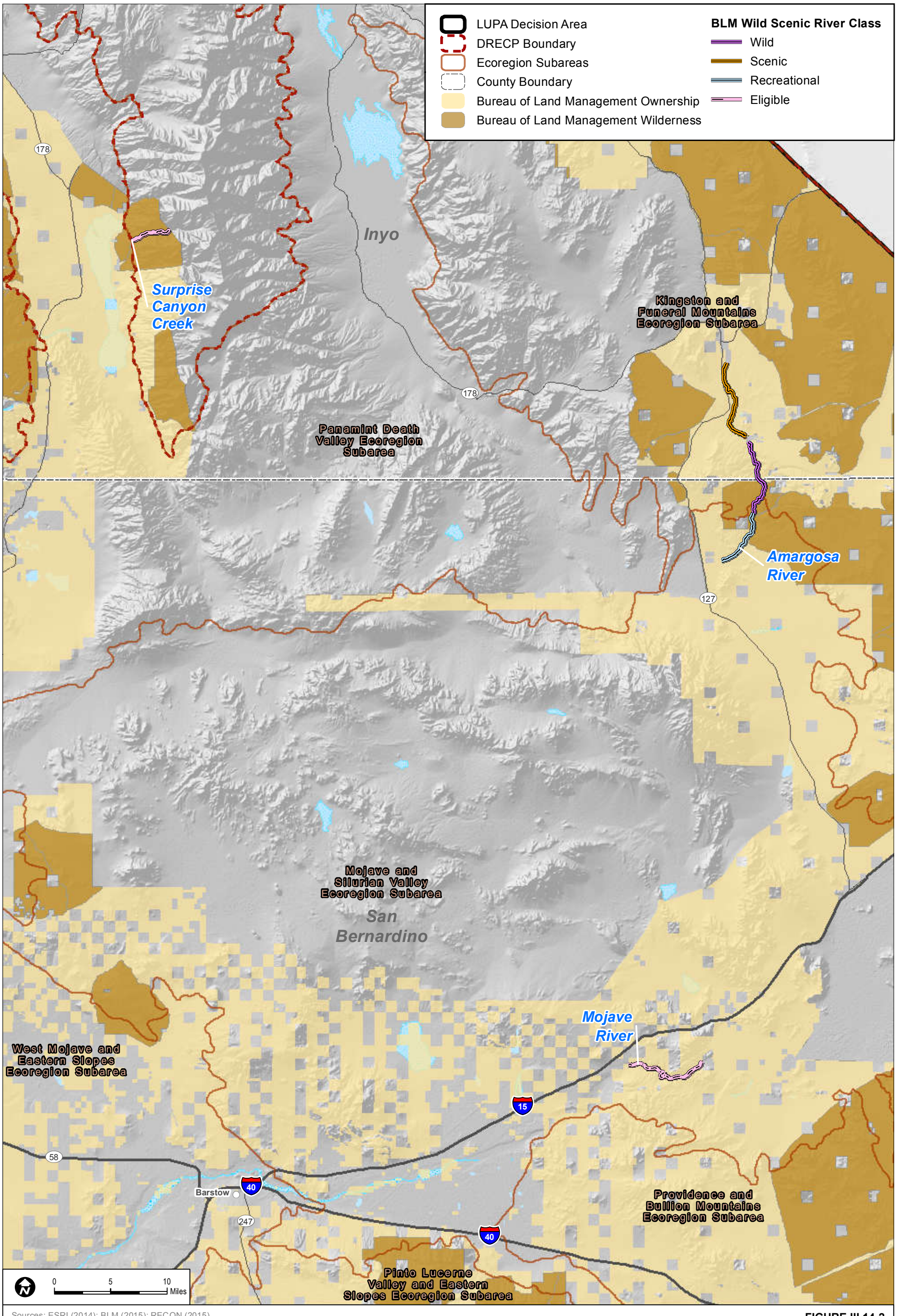
The suitability analysis for the Mojave River was not completed in the respective plan amendments. The suitability analysis is being deferred under the Proposed LUPA as it is outside the scope of this targeted plan amendment. Therefore, this stream segment will remain under interim protective management until a suitability determination is made.

The full eligibility report for the Mojave River can be found in Appendix F of the West Mojave Plan Amendment (2006).

Surprise Canyon Creek: The Northeast Mojave Plan Amendment (2002) found that 5 miles of Surprise Canyon Creek from the boundary of Death Valley National Park to the ACEC boundary is eligible for wild and scenic river designation with the upper 4 miles tentatively classified as wild and the lower 1 mile as scenic. Surprise Canyon supports extensive cottonwood/willow streamside woodland, considered an "unusual plant assemblage" in the CDCA Plan. This multistoried woodland covers approximately 2 miles of the total stream reach and is the most extensive riparian system in the Panamint Mountains. The remaining 3 miles of the stream reach is composed of other riparian/wetland dependent vegetation.

Surprise Canyon Creek also supports a basic saxicole plant assemblage, another unusual plant assemblage. Several federal sensitive species have been located in Surprise Canyon in these limestone outcrops including Panamint dudleya (*Dudleya saxosa* ssp. *saxosa*) and Death Valley round-leaved phacelia (*Phacelia mustelina*). The talus slopes in the canyon also support another federal sensitive species endemic to the Panamint Mountains, the Panamint daisy (*Enceliopsis covillei*). The diversity of vegetative communities in Surprise Canyon contributes to providing niches for a diverse wildlife community, one of the most diverse and significant in the CDCA.

Surprise Canyon provides an exceptional semi-primitive recreation opportunity. The canyon bottom forms a corridor through the rugged 29,180-acre Surprise Canyon Wilderness. The designation-eligible segments of Surprise Canyon offer outstanding hiking, bird watching, botanizing, photography, and backpacking opportunities. The hike from Chris Wicht Camp along this perennial stream and through the narrow slot canyon to the abandoned ghost town of Panamint City is one of the most outstanding treks in the California Desert.



Sources: ESRI (2014); BLM (2015); RECON (2015)

FIGURE III.14-2

Wild and Scenic Rivers Managed by BLM within the LUPA Decision Area

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The suitability analysis for Surprise Canyon Creek was not completed in the respective plan amendments. The suitability analysis is being deferred under the Proposed LUPA as it is outside the scope of this targeted plan amendment. Therefore, this stream segment will remain under interim protective management until a suitability determination is made.

The full eligibility report for Surprise Canyon Creek can be found in Appendix T of the Northeast Mojave Plan Amendment (2002).

III.14.2.1.3 National Monuments

The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, which encompasses about 272,000 acres (94,600 on BLM-managed land), is in the LUPA Decision Area (see Figure III.14-1).

III.14.2.1.4 National Scenic and Historic Trails

The BLM, NPS, USFS, and several other agencies are responsible for the management of NSHTs. NSHTs in the LUPA Decision Area include the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, and the Old Spanish National Historic Trail.

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

Approximately 182 miles of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail passes through the LUPA Decision Area, primarily in the Pinto and Lucerne Valley ecoregion subarea and in the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes ecoregion subarea (see Figure III.14-1). Approximately 69 miles of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail are on BLM-managed lands in the LUPA Decision Area.

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

Approximately 159 miles of the 1,210-mile Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail alignment (in California and Arizona) are in the Imperial Borrego Valley ecoregion subarea (see Figure III.14-1). Approximately 26 miles of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail are on BLM-managed lands in the LUPA Decision Area.

Old Spanish National Historic Trail

Approximately 367 miles of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail are within the LUPA Decision Area and cross six of the ecoregion subareas (see Figure III.14-1). Approximately 139 miles are on BLM-managed lands in the LUPA Decision Area.

Under the existing condition, these trails do not have a designated trail corridor or easement. However, BLM has easements and rights-of-way between 15 to 50 feet across segments of

the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail that cross private land in accordance with BLM policy and the National Trail System Act.

Visual resources along these trails are described in Chapter III.20. The baseline includes more than 50 renewable energy projects recently completed or under construction within the LUPA Decision Area. These projects are listed in Appendix O and shown in Figure III.1-1 (see Section III.1.3.3). Some existing projects would have indirect impacts on NSHTs, such as the Ocotillo Express Wind project that is in close proximity to the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. These projects have been assessed for their impacts on NSHTs.

III.14.2.1.5 Wilderness Study Areas

To achieve the mandate of Section 603 of FLPMA, BLM developed a three-phase wilderness review process: inventory, study, and reporting. The inventory phase of this process, initiated in 1978, involves examining public lands to determine and locate the existence of areas containing wilderness characteristics that meet criteria under the Wilderness Act. Areas clearly lacking wilderness characteristics were sorted out from lands that might have those characteristics. This intensive inventory was then followed by a 90-day public review period, after which final WSAs were identified. This inventory process and a general description of all of the WSAs in the CDCA are in the CDCA Wilderness Inventory (1979) and the Record of Decision for wilderness recommendations in the California Statewide Wilderness Study Report (1991).

To be designated as a WSA, an area must have the following characteristics:

- Size—comprise roadless areas of at least 5,000 acres of public lands, or of a manageable size
- Naturalness—generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature
- Opportunities—provides outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation

In addition, WSAs often have special qualities such as ecological, geological, educational, historical, scientific, and scenic values. Since 1980, Congress has reviewed these areas, designating some as wilderness, designating some to remain in WSA status (CDPA 1994), and releasing others for nonwilderness uses. Until Congress makes a final determination on a WSA, BLM manages these areas to preserve their suitability for future designation as wilderness. In the LUPA Decision Area, WSAs encompass approximately 390,000 acres on BLM-managed lands (Table III.14-2 and Figure III.14-3). For the more than 50 renewable energy projects recently completed or under construction within the LUPA Decision Area included in the baseline, none are near WSAs.

Table III.14-2
Wilderness Study Area Acres within BLM-administered Lands in the LUPA Decision Area

Wilderness Study Areas	Total Acres
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	
Imperial Borrego Valley	
Kingston and Funeral Mountains	
Kingston Range WSA (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	12,000
Mojave and Silurian Valley	
Avawatz Mountains WSA	50,000
Cady Mountains WSA (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	47,000
Death Valley 17 WSA (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	27,000
Kingston Range WSA (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	28,000
Soda Mountains WSA	114,000
Owens River Valley	
Cerro Gordo WSA	1,000
Crater Mountain WSA	1,000
Independence Creek WSA	6,000
Southern Inyo WSA	3,000
Symmes Creek WSA	8,000
Panamint Death Valley	
Death Valley 17 WSA (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	24,000
Great Falls Basin WSA	1,000
Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes	
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	
Providence and Bullion Mountains	
Cady Mountains WSA (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	59,000
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	
CDCA Area outside the DRECP boundary	
Great Falls Basin WSA	7,000
White Mountains WSA	2,000
Total	**390,000**

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to the nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore the subtotals may not sum to the total in the table.
Source: BLM 2015

III.14.2.2 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Under 43 CFR 1610.7-2, BLM is directed to identify areas having potential for ACEC designation and protection management through the land use planning process. To qualify as an ACEC, an area must contain resources, values, systems or processes, or hazards eligible that meet the relevance and importance criteria.

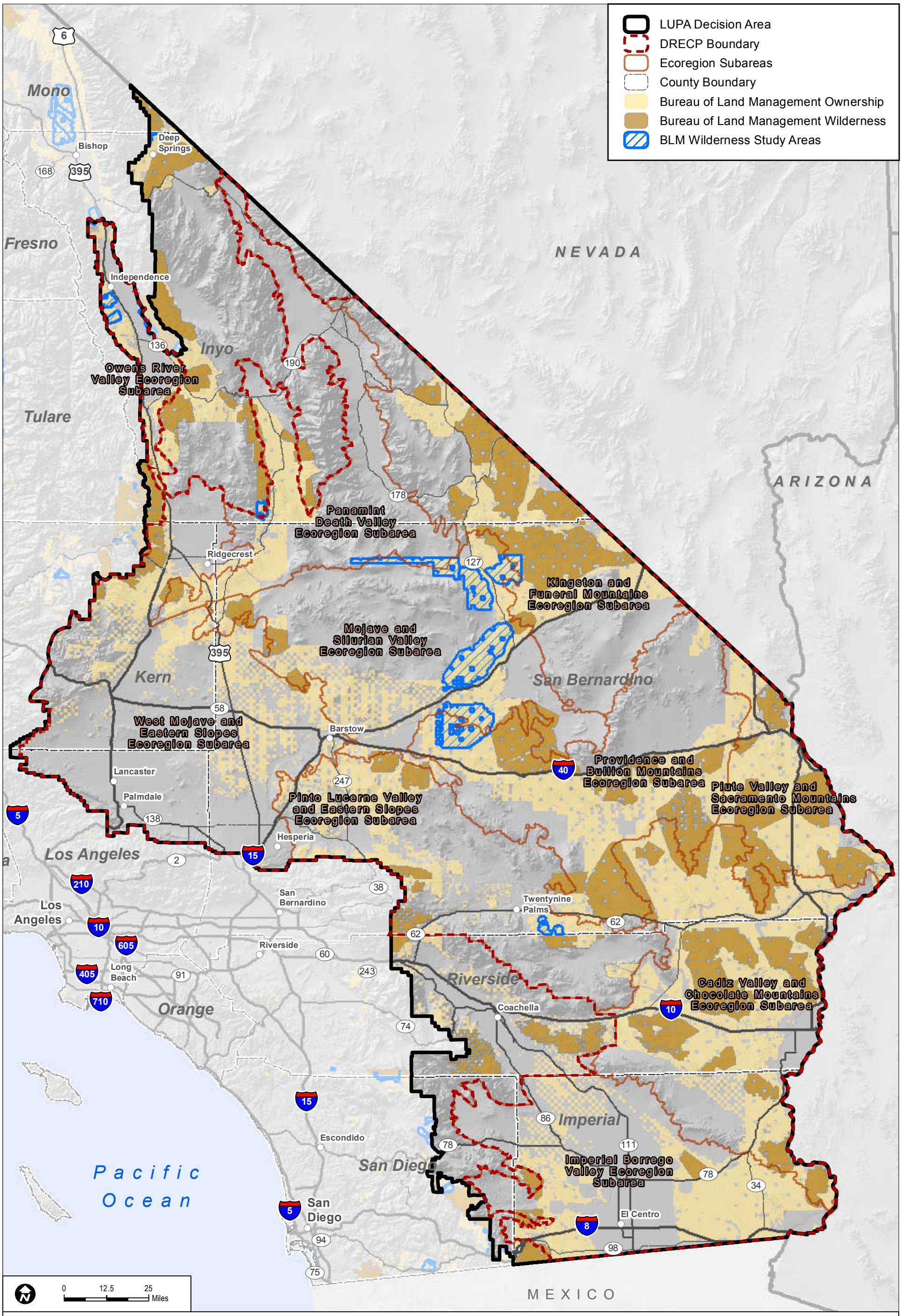
To meet the relevance criteria, there shall be present a significant historic, cultural, or scenic value; a fish or wildlife resource or other natural system or process; or natural hazard. To meet the importance criteria, the resource must have substantial significance and values. This generally requires qualities of more than local significance and special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern. A natural hazard can be important if it is a significant threat to human life or property.

The CDCA Plan states that the ACEC program goals are to:

1. Identify and protect significant natural and cultural resources requiring special management attention found on BLM-administered lands in the CDCA
2. Provide for other uses in the designated areas, compatible with the protection and enhancement of the significant natural and cultural resources
3. Systematically monitor the preservation of significant natural and cultural resources on BLM-administered lands and the compatibility of other allowed uses with these resources (BLM 1980, as amended)

One ACEC, Horse Canyon, is in the Caliente RMP (Bakersfield Field Office). The objective for the Horse Canyon ACEC is to manage the protection and preservation of significant cultural resources, traditional lifeway values, and natural resources. According to the management prescriptions, the Horse Canyon ACEC is:

- Open for leasing of oil, gas, and geothermal resources, subject to no surface use
- Unavailable for livestock grazing due to other resource concerns



Sources: ESRI (2014); BLM (2015); RECON (2015)

FIGURE III.14-3

Wilderness Study Areas within the LUPA Decision Area

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The LUPA Decision Area would not overlap with existing ACECs managed under the Bishop RMP.

For the more than 50 renewable energy projects recently completed or under construction within the LUPA Decision Area included in the baseline, ACECs have been assessed under each project's environmental analysis, where appropriate. For example, the five projects on BLM-administered land, the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System, Ocotillo Express Wind, Alta East Wind, Genesis NextEra, and Desert Sunlight Solar Farm are all near BLM ACECs. The Ocotillo Express Wind project is also near the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Management Area in Imperial County. Impacts to these resources were addressed in each project's environmental analysis.

III.14.2.2.1 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

There are currently over 80 ACECs within BLM-administered lands in the LUPA Decision Area (Figure III.14-4). Table III.14-3 shows the ACEC acres by ecoregion subarea and CDCA Plan area outside the DRECP boundary.

Table III.14-3
ACEC Acres within BLM-Managed Lands in the LUPA Decision Area

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	Acres
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains (All within CDCA)	
Alligator Rock ACEC	7,000
Chuckwalla Valley Dune Thicket ACEC	2,000
Corn Springs ACEC	2,000
Desert Lily Preserve ACEC	2,000
Indian Pass ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	100
Mopah Spring ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	200
Mule Mountains ACEC	4,000
Palen Dry Lake ACEC	4,000
Patton's Iron Mountain Divisional Camp ACEC	16,000
Turtle Mountains NNL ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	8,000
Whipple Mountains ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	1,000
Imperial Borrego Valley (All within CDCA)	
Coyote Mountains Fossil Site ACEC	1,000
East Mesa ACEC	38,000
Indian Pass ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	2,000
Lake Cahuilla – A, B, C, and D ACEC (aggregate)	8,000
North Algodones Dunes NNL ACEC	26,000
Pilot Knob ACEC	900
Plank Road ACEC	300

Table III.14-3
ACEC Acres within BLM-Managed Lands in the LUPA Decision Area

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	Acres
San Sebastian Marsh/San Felipe Creek ACEC	7,000
Singer Geoglyphs ACEC	2,000
West Mesa ACEC	19,000
Yuha Basin ACEC	66,000
Kingston and Funeral Mountains (All within CDCA)	
Amargosa North ACEC	7,000
Amargosa South ACEC	17,000
Clark Mountains ACEC	4,000
Halloran Wash ACEC	2,000
Kingston Range ACEC	19,000
Mesquite Lake ACEC	7,000
Mountain Pass Dinosaur Trackway ACEC	600
Mojave and Silurian Valley	
Afton Canyon ACEC	9,000
Amargosa South ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	2,000
Bedrock Spring ACEC	800
Black Mountain ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	37,000
Calico Early Man Site ACEC	800
Christmas Canyon ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	1,000
Coolgardie Mesa ACEC	10,000
Cronese Basin ACEC	8,500
Denning Springs ACEC	400
Manix Paleontological ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	2,000
Mesquite Hills/Crucero ACEC	5,000
Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard ACEC (occurs in 3 ecoregion subareas)	7,000
Brisbane Valley Mojave Monkeyflower ACEC (occurs in 3 ecoregion subareas)	14,000
Parish's Phacelia ACEC	42,000
Rainbow Basin/Owl Canyon ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	4,000
Red Mountain Spring ACEC	700
Salt Creek Hills ACEC	2,000
Steam Well ACEC	Less than 100
West Paradise ACEC	200
Western Rand Mountains ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	200
Owens River Valley	
Fossil Falls ACEC	Less than 100
Rose Springs ACEC	800

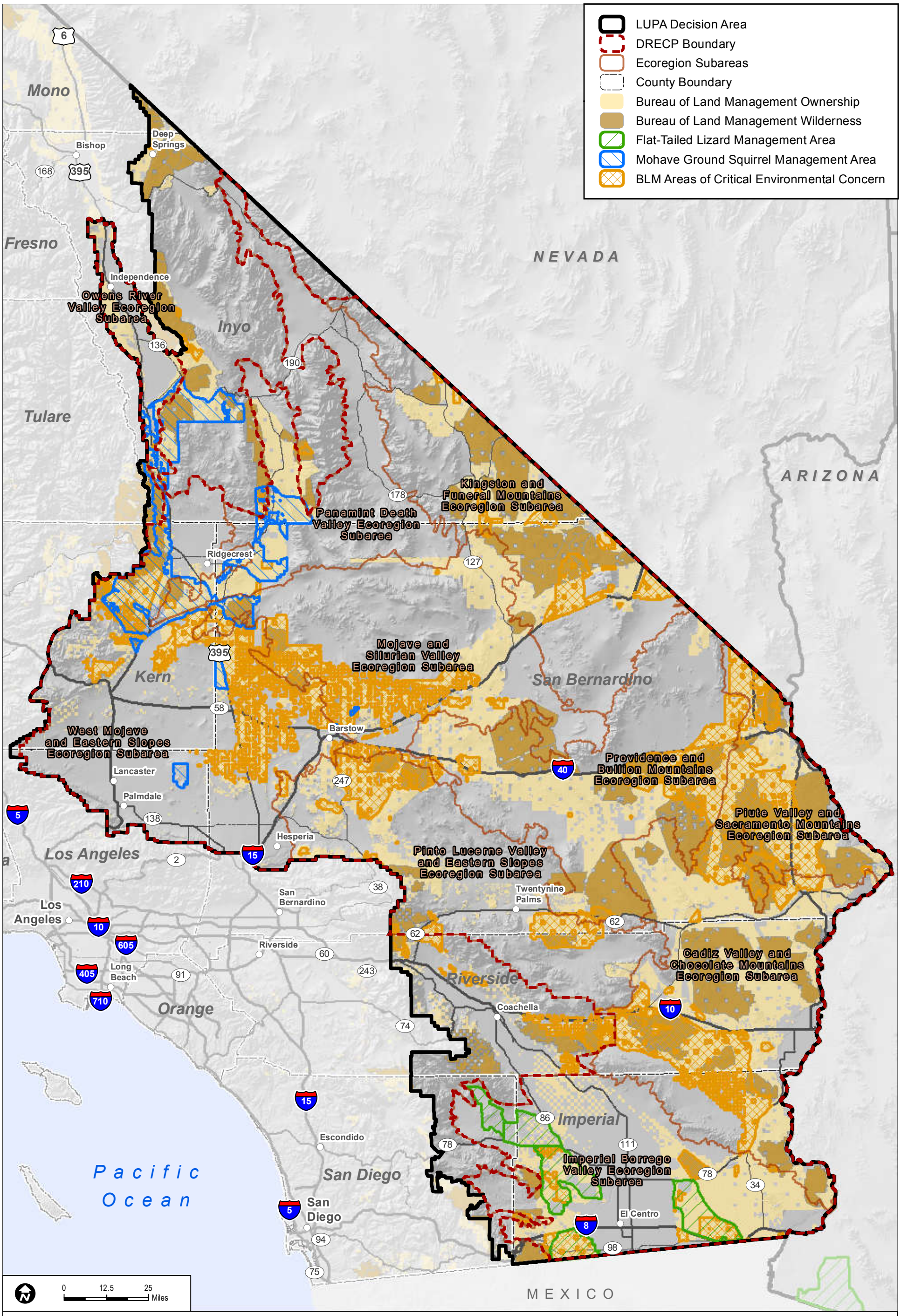
Table III.14-3
ACEC Acres within BLM-Managed Lands in the LUPA Decision Area

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	Acres
Panamint Death Valley	
Christmas Canyon ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	2,000
Great Falls Basin Argus Range ACEC	1,000
Last Chance Canyon ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	4,000
Trona Pinnacles ACEC	4,000
Warm Sulfur Spring ACEC	300
Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes	
Bendire's Thrasher ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	10,000
Big Morongo Canyon ACEC	12,000
Carbonate Endemic Plants Research Natural Area (RNA) ACEC	4,000
Juniper Flats ACEC	2,000
Mojave Fishhook Cactus ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	300
Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard ACEC (occurs in 3 ecoregion subareas)	Less than 100
Brisbane Valley Mojave Monkeyflower ACEC (occurs in 3 ecoregion subareas)	17,000
Rodman Mountains Cultural Area ACEC	6,000
Soggy Dry Lake Creosote Rings ACEC	200
Upper Johnson Valley Yucca Rings ACEC	300
Whitewater Canyon ACEC	3,000
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	
Bigelow Cholla RNA ACEC	100
Dead Mountains ACEC	27,000
Mopah Spring ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	2,000
Turtle Mountains NNL ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	42,000
Whipple Mountains ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	2,000
Providence and Bullion Mountains	
Amboy Crater NNL ACEC	600
Manix Paleontological ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	1,000
Marble Mountain Fossil Bed ACEC	200
Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard ACEC (occurs in 3 ecoregion subareas)	15,000
Pisgah RNA ACEC	18,000
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	
Barstow Woolly Sunflower ACEC	18,000
Bendire's Thrasher ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	2,000
Black Mountain ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	14,000
Desert Tortoise RNA ACEC	22,000
Harper Dry Lake ACEC	500

Table III.14-3
ACEC Acres within BLM-Managed Lands in the LUPA Decision Area

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	Acres
Jawbone-Butterbredt ACEC	146,000
Kelso Creek Monkeyflower ACEC	2,000
Last Chance Canyon ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	1,000
Middle Knob ACEC	18,000
Mojave Fishhook Cactus ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	300
Brisbane Valley Mojave Monkeyflower ACEC (occurs in 3 ecoregion subareas)	5,000
Rainbow Basin/Owl Canyon ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	100
Sand Canyon ACEC	2,000
Short Canyon ACEC	800
Western Rand Mountains ACEC (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	31,000
Bakersfield/Caliente RMP	
Horse Canyon ACEC	1,500
CDCA Area outside the DRECP boundary	
Big Morongo Canyon ACEC	12,000
Cerro Gordo ACEC	9,000
Coyote Mountains Fossil Site ACEC	5,000
Dos Palmas ACEC	8,000
Fossil Falls ACEC	2,000
Great Falls Basin ACEC	9,000
Jawbone-Butterbredt ACEC	146,000
Saline Valley ACEC	1,000
Sand Canyon ACEC	1,000
Surprise Canyon ACEC	5,000
White Mountain City ACEC	1,000
Whitewater Canyon ACEC	11,000
Yuha Basin ACEC	1,000

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to the nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore, the subtotals may not sum to the total in the table.
Source: BLM 2015



Sources: ESRI (2014); BLM (2015); RECON (2015)

FIGURE III.14-4

ACECs and Wildlife Management Areas on BLM-managed Lands within the LUPA Decision Area

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III.14.2.2.2 Wildlife Management Areas

BLM established DWMAs to protect high-quality habitat for the threatened Mojave population of the desert tortoise. The majority of DWMAs overlap with Mojave desert tortoise-designated critical habitat. Eight DWMAs are in the LUPA Decision Area (Table III.14-4).

Table III.14-4
Wildlife Management Area Acres within
BLM-administered Lands in the LUPA Decision Area

Wildlife Management Areas	Total Acres
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	
Chemehuevi DWMA (occurs in 3 ecoregion subareas)	158,000
Chuckwalla DWMA (occurs in 3 ecoregion subareas)	431,000
Imperial Borrego Valley	
Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Management Area (there is overlap with ACEC acres)	*265,000*
Chuckwalla DWMA (occurs in 3 ecoregion subareas)	400
Kingston and Funeral Mountains	
Ivanpah DWMA	35,000
Shadow Valley DWMA	96,000
Mojave and Silurian Valley	
Mohave Ground Squirrel Wildlife HMA (there is overlap with ACEC acres)	*262,000*
Fremont-Kramer DWMA (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	29,000
Ord-Rodman DWMA (occurs in 4 ecoregion subareas)	37,000
Superior-Cronese DWMA (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	306,000
Owens River Valley	
Mohave Ground Squirrel Wildlife HMA (there is overlap with ACEC acres)	*59,000*
Panamint Death Valley	
Mohave Ground Squirrel Wildlife HMA (there is overlap with ACEC acres)	*187,000*
Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes	
Chuckwalla DWMA (occurs in 3 ecoregion subareas)	500
Ord-Rodman DWMA (occurs in 4 ecoregion subareas)	178,000
Pinto Mountains DWMA (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	101,000
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	
Chemehuevi DWMA (occurs in 3 ecoregion subareas)	402,000
Piute-Fenner DWMA (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	87,000
Providence and Bullion Mountains	
Chemehuevi DWMA (occurs in 3 ecoregion subareas)	262,000
Ord-Rodman DWMA (occurs in 4 ecoregion subareas)	1,000
Pinto Mountains DWMA (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	9,000
Piute-Fenner DWMA (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	66,000
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	
Mohave Ground Squirrel Wildlife HMA (there is overlap with ACEC acres)	*629,000*

Table III.14-4
Wildlife Management Area Acres within BLM-administered Lands in the LUPA Decision Area

Wildlife Management Areas	Total Acres
Fremont-Kramer DWMA (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	284,000
Ord-Rodman DWMA (occurs in 4 ecoregion subareas)	4,000
Superior-Cronese DWMA (occurs in 2 ecoregion subareas)	101,000
CDCA Area outside the DRECP boundary	
Mohave Ground Squirrel Wildlife HMA (may overlap with ACECs)	*193,300*
Chuckwalla DWMA	63,500
Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard	10,000

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to the nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore, the subtotals may not sum to the total in the table.
Source: BLM 2015

Special Management Areas are designated for management of specific species that are considered at risk of being listed under the Endangered Species Act. These areas have special management prescriptions that may limit surface disturbance activities in designated areas. There are two Special Management Areas in the LUPA Decision Area, the Mohave Ground Squirrel Conservation Area and Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Management Area. These areas are described in more detail later in this chapter (see Table III.14-4).Through amendment to the CDCA Plan, BLM has established the Mohave Ground Squirrel Wildlife HMA (West Mojave Plan Record of Decision 2006). BLM has also amended the CDCA Plan to adopt the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Rangewide Management Strategy, which includes five management areas (Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Interagency Coordinating Committee 2003). BLM has evaluated these areas and is considering designating them as ACECs through the Proposed LUPA. Throughout this document, these areas are included in the ACEC sections; however, they are not currently ACECs.

The Mohave Ground Squirrel Wildlife HMA consists of 1,135,743 acres (overlapping some existing ACECs) and the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Management Area consists of approximately 264,800 acres (overlapping with existing ACECs), as shown in Figure III.14-4.

For the more than 50 renewable energy projects recently completed or under construction in the LUPA Decision Area included in the baseline, wildlife management areas have been assessed under each project's environmental analysis.

III.14.2.3 Lands with Inventoried Wilderness Characteristics

Although the wilderness review process pertaining to Section 603 of FLPMA has been completed, Sections 201 and 202 of FLPMA direct BLM to prepare and maintain, on a continuing basis, an inventory of all public lands and their resources and other values. The BLM is also directed, when appropriate, to revise land use plans. This includes an inventory of lands with wilderness characteristics outside the areas designated as WSAs, and units of the National Wilderness Preservation System. BLM describes such inventoried lands as lands with wilderness characteristics, shares this information with the public, and integrates this information into its land management decisions.

Lands outside designated wilderness or WSAs are inventoried during the land use planning process under the authority of Section 201 of FLPMA to determine if the lands possess wilderness characteristics. To be classified as lands with wilderness characteristics, they must possess sufficient size, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The BLM may also identify one or more alternatives to protect identified lands with wilderness characteristics unless BLM determines that impairment of wilderness characteristics is appropriate and consistent with applicable requirements of law and other resource management considerations (BLM Land Use Planning Handbook, H 1601-1, Appendix C, subparagraph K, Wilderness Characteristics; BLM Manual 6310). Lands identified for protection of their wilderness characteristics through the land use planning process do not become wilderness or WSAs. Only Congress can designate wilderness areas.

The BLM completed a wilderness characteristics inventory for those lands that could potentially be impacted in Development Focus Areas under the Proposed LUPA. Table III.14-5 and Figure III.14-5 show the results of this inventory. Approximately 1,213,000 acres of inventoried lands were found to have wilderness characteristics within BLM-administered lands in the LUPA Decision Area (see Table III.14-5). The Imperial Sand Dunes Record of Decision identifies approximately 42,000 acres as possessing wilderness characteristics and includes management actions to protect those characteristics (see Table III.14-5).

In addition, the BLM has received citizen's wilderness characteristics inventories. Of the approximately 700,000 acres remaining to be inventoried for wilderness characteristics in the LUPA Decision Area, the BLM has identified approximately 403,000 acres as having the best potential for lands with wilderness characteristics. Of these acres believed to have the best potential for wilderness characteristics, more than 300,000 acres have been previously surveyed by citizen organizations and have been identified as having wilderness characteristics. These acres have the highest priority for inventorying by the BLM.

Table III.14-5
BLM Lands Inventoried for
Wilderness Characteristics in the LUPA Decision Area

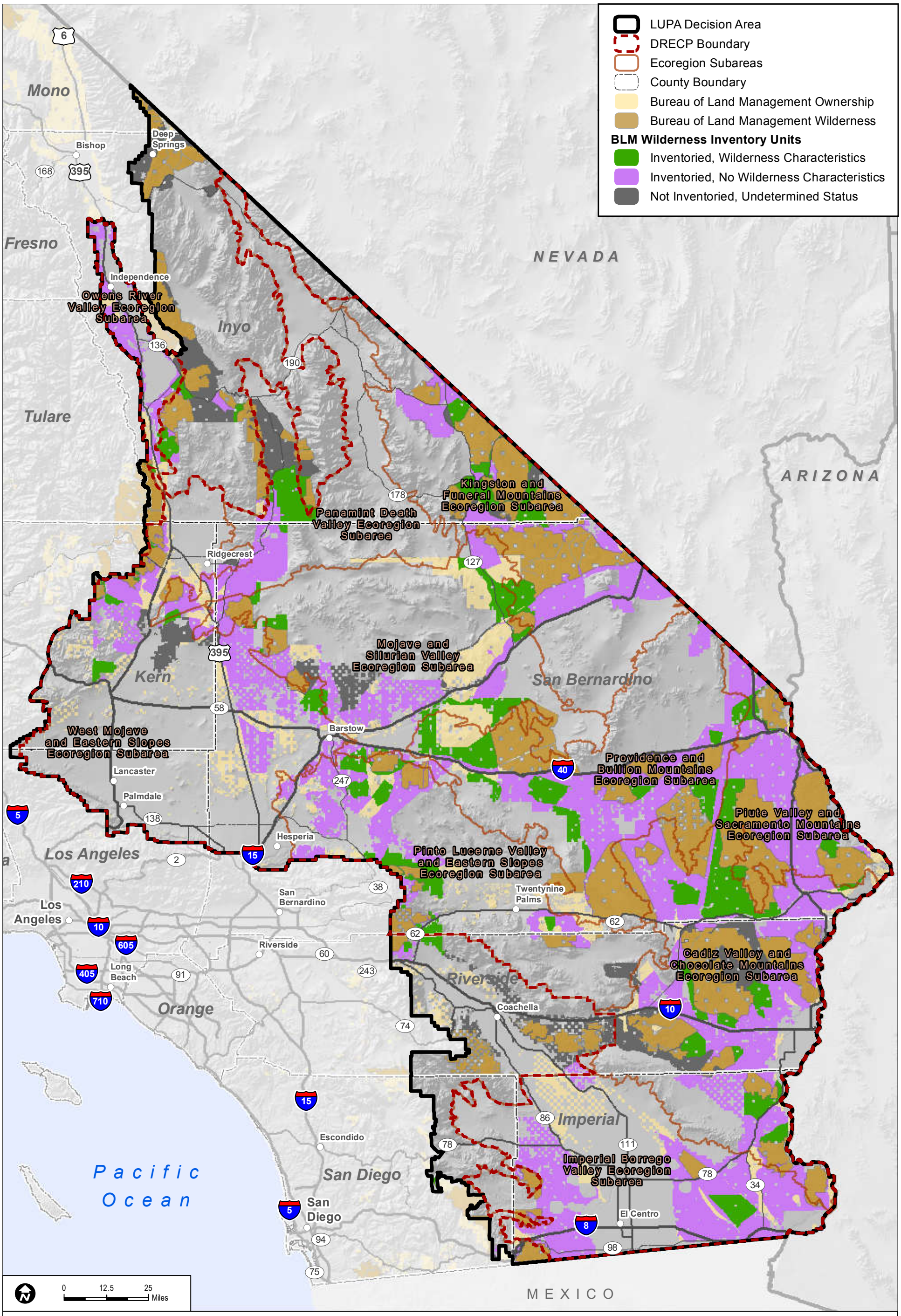
Ecoregion Subarea	Inventoried, Found to Have Wilderness Characteristics	Inventoried, No Wilderness Characteristics Found
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	279,000	848,000
Imperial Borrego Valley (Imperial Sand Dunes, managed)	42,000	639,000
Kingston and Funeral Mountains	139,000	373,000
Mojave and Silurian Valley	126,000	302,000
Owens River Valley	9,000	116,000
Panamint Death Valley	91,000	197,000
Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes	120,000	295,000
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	74,000	425,000
Providence and Bullion Mountains	229,000	503,000
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	46,000	344,000
CDCA Area outside the DRECP boundary	58,000	49,000
Total	**1,213,000**	**4,093,000**

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to the nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore, the subtotals may not sum to the total in the table.
Source: BLM 2015

For the more than 50 renewable energy projects recently completed or under construction within the LUPA Decision Area included in the baseline, lands have been inventoried for wilderness characteristics and have been assessed under each project's environmental analysis, where appropriate. For example, the Alta East Wind project is near lands inventoried and found to have wilderness characteristics in the West Mojave and Eastern Slopes ecoregion subarea.

III.14.2.4 Special Recreation Management Areas

SRMAs are units of public land identified for the purpose of directing available recreation funding and personnel to fulfill commitments made to provide specific, structured recreation opportunities. SRMAs are managed to protect and enhance a targeted set of activities, experiences, benefits, and desired recreation characteristics. Three designated SRMAs are in the LUPA Decision Area boundary—Alabama Hills, Meccacopia, and Imperial Sand Dunes. Table III.14-6 shows the SRMA acres by ecoregion subarea. See Section III.18.2.1.1, Recreation Management Areas, for more information on SRMAs.



Sources: ESRI (2014); BLM (2015); RECON (2015)

FIGURE III.14-5

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Inventoried by BLM within the LUPA Decision Area

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Table III.14-6
Special Recreation Management Area within
BLM-managed Lands in the LUPA Decision Area

Special Recreation Management Area	Total Acres
Imperial Borrego Valley	
Imperial Sand Dunes SRMA	164,000
Owens River Valley	
Bishop Field Office – Alabama Hills SRMA	29,000
CDCA Area outside the DRECP boundary	
Meccacopia SRMA	94,000
Total	**287,000**

Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to the nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore, the subtotals may not sum to the total in the table.
Source: BLM 2013

For the more than 50 renewable energy projects recently completed or under construction within the LUPA Decision Area included in the baseline, SRMAs have been assessed under each projects environmental analysis where appropriate. None of the projects are in SRMAs.

III.14.2.5 Designated Open Off-highway Vehicle Areas

Off-highway Vehicle Areas are BLM-managed lands made available for off-highway vehicle recreation. All public land in the LUPA Decision Area is designated as open, closed, or limited for motorized vehicle use. On lands designated as open, motorized vehicles may be operated anywhere a vehicle can go within the boundaries of the open area. See the Outdoor Recreation Section III.18.2.1.2 for more information.

III.14.2.6 Multiple-use Classes

Within the LUPA Decision Area, BLM manages approximately 9,929,000 acres for multiple use and sustained yield, pursuant to FLPMA, the CDCA Plan, and the Bishop and Bakersfield RMPs. Multiple-use classes in the CDCA Plan that are also contained within the LUPA Decision Area are described below. The Bakersfield and Bishop RMPs do not contain multiple-use classes.

The Proposed LUPA multiple-use classes are detailed in Table III.14-7, and also shown in Appendix R1 (Figures R1.14-1 through R1.14-11a and R1.14-11b).

Table III.14-7
Multiple-use Class Acres within BLM-managed Lands in the LUPA Decision Area by Ecoregion Subarea

Ecoregion Subarea	Class C	Class L	Class M	Class I	Unclassified
Cadiz Valley and Chocolate Mountains	744,000	629,000	764,000	19,000	2,000
Imperial Borrego	54,000	502,000	166,000	85,000	38,000
Kingston and Funeral Mountains	612,000	349,000	214,000	9,000	4,000
Mojave and Silurian Valley	166,000	454,000	332,000	40,000	11,000
Owens River Valley	9,000	50,000	9,000	400	3,000
Panamint Death Valley	34,000	281,000	40,000	93,000	6,000
Pinto Lucerne Valley and Eastern Slopes	128,000	231,000	223,000	225,000	75,000
Piute Valley and Sacramento Mountains	395,000	361,000	136,000	0	7,000
Providence and Bullion Mountains	549,000	513,000	307,000	36,000	14,000
West Mojave and Eastern Slopes	80,000	548,000	94,000	47,000	85,000
CDCA Area outside the DRECP boundary	580,700	322,300	96,400	5,500	49,500
Total	**3,351,700**	**4,240,300**	**2,381,400**	**559,900**	**294,500**

See "California Desert Conservation Area Plan" in Section III.14.1 for descriptions of the four multiple-use classes.
Note: The following general rounding rules were applied to calculated values: values greater than 1,000 were rounded to the nearest 1,000; values less than 1,000 and greater than 100 were rounded to the nearest 100; values of 100 or less were rounded to the nearest 10, and therefore totals may not sum due to rounding. In cases where subtotals are provided, the subtotals and the totals are individually rounded. The totals are not a sum of the rounded subtotals; therefore, the subtotals may not sum to the total in the table.
Source: BLM 2015

Of the five renewable energy projects recently completed or under construction on BLM-administered land within the LUPA Decision Area, the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System is on land managed as Class L and Class M, Ocotillo Express Wind is on unclassified land, Alta East Wind is on land managed as Class M and unclassified, and the Genesis NextEra and Desert Sunlight Solar Farm are on land managed as Class M.

III.14.3 Transmission Outside the DRECP Area

The transmission corridors outside the DRECP area include four geographic areas: San Diego, Los Angeles, North Palm Springs–Riverside, and the Central Valley. The setting includes BLM designations, classifications, allocations, and wilderness areas within 1.5 miles of the center of transmission corridors, a 3-mile-wide swath.

III.14.3.1 National Conservation Lands

III.14.3.1.1 National Conservation Lands Identified Under Public Law 111-11

The transmission line corridors outside the DRECP area are not within the boundaries of the CDCA. Therefore, the corridors would not traverse the National Conservation Lands under PL 111-11.

III.14.3.1.2 Wilderness Areas

Table III.14-8 lists the wilderness areas within a 3-mile-wide swath of the transmission line corridors, and includes the distance from the closest boundary of the wilderness area. This table applies to all of the alternatives, except Alternative 2. Under Alternative 2, in addition to the wilderness areas in Table III.14-8, one additional transmission line corridor would be within 0.5 mile of the San Gorgonio Wilderness Area in the North Palm Springs–Riverside area. Transmission line construction is prohibited in designated wilderness, even within existing transmission corridors.

Table III.14-8
Designated Wilderness Areas Outside the DRECP Area

Wilderness Area	Distance From Corridor (in miles)
San Diego Area	
Jacumba	0.2
Carrizo Gorge	0.7
Hauser	0.8
Pine Creek	1.2
Los Angeles Area	
San Gabriel	0.5
North Palm Springs–Riverside Area	
Mecca Hills	Wilderness Area crossed by corridor for 10.6 miles
Joshua Tree	0.4
Orocopia Mountains	0.6
Cucamonga	1.5
San Jacinto	1.5

A portion of this wilderness area also is within the DRECP area
Source: BLM 2013

III.14.3.1.3 National Monuments

The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument is 0.2 mile from the North Palm Springs–Riverside area transmission corridor. There are no national monuments near the San Diego, Los Angeles, and Central Valley areas.

III.14.3.1.4 Wild and Scenic Rivers

There are no designated National Wild and Scenic Rivers in the vicinity of the San Diego, Los Angeles, North Palm Springs–Riverside, or Central Valley areas.

III.14.3.1.5 National Scenic and Historic Trails

NSHTs in the LUPA Decision Area include the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, and the Old Spanish National Historic Trail (see Figure III.14-1).

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

Transmission line corridors would intersect the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail in the San Diego, Los Angeles, and North Palm Springs–Riverside areas.

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

Transmission line corridors would intersect the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail in the Los Angeles and North Palm Springs–Riverside areas.

Old Spanish National Historic Trail

Transmission line corridors would intersect the Old Spanish National Historic Trail in the Los Angeles and North Palm Springs–Riverside areas.

III.14.3.1.6 Wilderness Study Areas

Table III.14-9 identifies WSAs near corridors in the San Diego and Central Valley areas. No WSAs are within the 3-mile-wide swath of transmission lines in the Los Angeles and North Palm Springs–Riverside area transmission corridors.

Table III.14-9
Wilderness Study Areas Outside the DRECP Area

Wilderness Study Area	Distance From Corridor (miles)
San Diego Area	
Hauser Mountain	0.2
Carrizo Gorge	1.2
Central Valley Area	
Panoche Hills North	0.4
Panoche Hills South	0.5

Source: BLM 2008

III.14.3.2 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Table III.14-10 applies to the ACECs within the 3-mile-wide swath of all outside-of-area transmission line corridors. The actual area traversed would depend on the alternative implemented. No ACECs are in the vicinity of the transmission line corridors in the Los Angeles area.

Table III.14-10
ACECs Outside the DRECP Area

Area of Critical Environmental Concern	Distance From Corridor (miles)
San Diego Area	
In-Ko-Pah Mountains	Corridor would be adjacent to the western edge of the ACEC
Table Mountain	0.5
North Palm Springs–Riverside Area	
Big Morongo Canyon	Traversed by approximately 3 miles of the corridor
Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard	Intermittently traversed by up to approximately 18 miles of the corridor
Dos Palmas	Traversed by up to approximately 12 miles of the corridor
Chuckwalla Desert Wildlife Management Area	Intermittently traversed by approximately 17 miles of the corridor
Potrero	Traversed by approximately 1.5 miles of the corridor
Whitewater Canyon	0.2
Central Valley Area	
Panoche/Coalinga	Intermittently traversed by approximately 30 miles of the corridor
Kettleman Hills	0.6
Alkali Sinks	0.8

Source: BLM 2013

III.14.3.3 Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

No lands within any of the outside the DRECP area transmission corridors have wilderness characteristics. All corridors have existing transmission lines.

III.14.3.4 CDCA Plan Multiple-use Classes

The transmission line corridors in the Los Angeles and Central Valley areas would be completely out of the CDCA Plan boundaries and would not traverse land under BLM multiple-use classifications. Portions of the San Diego and North Palm Springs–Riverside areas include lands in the CDCA Plan. Table III.14-11 identifies the miles of transmission line corridors that would traverse each multiple-use classification.

Table III.14-11
Multiple-use Classes Outside the DRECP Area

Multiple-use Classes	Miles Traversed by Corridor(s)
San Diego Area	
Class L	6.3
North Palm Springs–Riverside Area	
Unclassified	Up to 121.7
Class L	Up to 37
Class M	Up to 27.8
Class C	10

Table value assumes all corridors are used.
Source: BLM 2013